



**Director of
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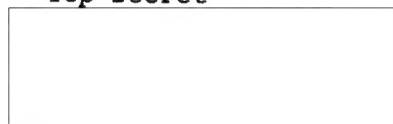
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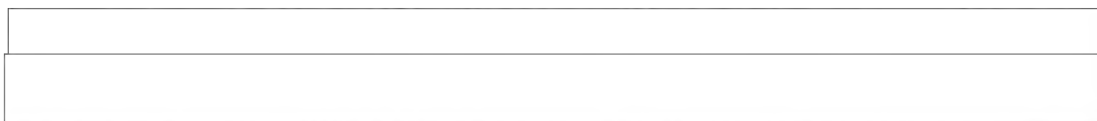
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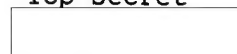
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CHAD: Rebels Closing on N'Djamena

[REDACTED]

Virtually nothing stands in the rebels' path. Government troops are in disarray, and many have joined the insurgents. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Comment: Habre may decide to surround N'Djamena and wait for President Goukouni's response to OAU demands that the government negotiate with the rebels. The OAU plans to withdraw its forces from Chad unless Goukouni agrees to talks by 10 June. The President, however, repeatedly has warned that he and his small group of followers would fight to the end. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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TAIWAN-US: Apprehension About Relations

//The strongly negative reaction of the media on Taiwan to the visit of Vice President Bush to the mainland reflects increased apprehension about US policy and indicates growing dissatisfaction with Taipei's handling of its relations with the US.//

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//In addition to replaying Taiwan's official protest over the publication of President Reagan's letters to Chinese leaders while the Vice President was in China, the media deliberately misrepresented their contents. Press complaints about US policy also include oblique criticisms of President Chiang Ching-kuo's decision last summer to limit public discussion of developments in Taiwanese-US relations. Some editorials are urging a return to more aggressive lobbying in the US and are calling for Taipei to demand that the US show support for Taiwan more openly.//

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Comment: //Recent events are being exploited by those who disagree with Chiang's low-key approach to managing relations with the US.

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USSR: Grain Crop Prospects

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//Bad weather in recent weeks has hurt the prospects for the grain crop for 1982. [REDACTED]

Low temperatures and rain in the European USSR have slowed spring planting, and the area sown is only slightly larger than the average for the years between 1979 and 1981, when late sowing contributed to poor harvests. Inadequate soil moisture also could hurt the crop east of the Volga River in the main spring wheat region.// [REDACTED]

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Comment: //The Soviets still can have a good grain harvest if the pace of spring sowing picks up and if the weather improves. A crop of over 200 million tons, which would be a sizable increase over the 175 million tons averaged during the past three years, is still possible, but the target of 238 million tons for this year is not.// [REDACTED]

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ARGENTINA-USSR: Status of Grain Trade

Comment: //The Soviets may see an opportunity to barter arms for grain in view of their \$3.2 billion trade deficit with Argentina and the restrictions placed by West European countries on military deliveries to Argentina. Buenos Aires's anti-Communist sentiments, coupled with potential problems of trying to incorporate Soviet equipment into its Western weapon systems, however, make any such military ties highly unlikely in the short run.// [REDACTED]

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LIBYA-NICARAGUA: Provision of Aircraft

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//Libya has provided Nicaragua with four small aircraft suitable for counterinsurgency operations. The Italian-manufactured basic trainers are equipped with rocket launchers

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Comment: //Since last May, Tripoli has provided Nicaragua about \$100 million worth of aid, and the recent delivery underscores Libya's continued commitment to the Sandinistas. The aircraft, which apparently were sent without the knowledge of the Italian Government or of the manufacturer, will supplement Nicaragua's small force of T-28 trainers. They may be used against anti-Sandinista forces operating along the Honduran border.//

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[redacted]

TURKEY-GREECE: Possible Movement in Airspace Dispute

Turkish Foreign Minister Turkmen has told West German Foreign Minister Genscher that Ankara is willing to recognize tacitly Greek claims to 10 nautical miles of airspace around its islands in the Aegean. The Turks have refused to recognize Greek claims in the Aegean since the early 1970s. The recent Law of the Sea draft treaty permits a maximum extension of territorial seas to 12 miles, but Turkey rejects Greece's claim that it is entitled to such an extension and has voted against the draft treaty. [redacted]

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Comment: Turkmen may have intended that the West Germans relay his remarks to Athens. The Turks may be signaling that they want to resume negotiations and are ready to compromise. Greek Prime Minister Papandreou appears open to at least informal talks with Ankara and probably would welcome a Turkish initiative to resolve the issue. In any case, negotiations would be protracted and difficult, and Papandreou would demand a stiff price for any concessions he might be willing to make. [redacted]

BENIN-US: Seeking Improved Links

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The leftist government of Benin is appealing for improvement in the normally strained relations with the US. The US Embassy states that the overture coincides with a new effort by President Kerekou to reduce dependence on the Soviets and Libyans, who have used Benin as a base for subversion in the region, and that Kerekou hopes the US will provide some badly needed economic assistance. He also hopes that by diminishing Soviet and Libyan influence he will be better able to deal with the extreme radicals in his government who may threaten his control. [redacted]

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Comment: //Although Kerekou removed a number of pro-Soviet and pro-Libyan radicals from the cabinet in April those still in the government probably will try to prevent closer relations with the West. If, however, Benin's rapprochement with France continues to develop and if efforts to secure stronger backing from Nigeria are successful, the moderates should be in a better position to curtail Soviet and Libyan influence.//

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[redacted]

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